Russian Federation in January 1993, December 1993 and February 1994 to explore the possibility of its implementation after making a fresh assessment of the economic and commercial aspects of the project which have changed since the signing of IGA in 1988. Discussions with Russia have not been concluded. The cost and other details of the project will be known after the discussions are completed.

Mishaps in Atomic Power Plants

3866. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the mishaps which occurred in the atomic power plants in the country, plant-wise, since their commissioning;

(b) whether any nuclear power plant is using electricity more than what is being generated by that plant;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) whether Government think that the performance of the nuclear power plants has been unsatisfactory in relation to their capacity; and

(e) if so, what measures are contemplated by Government in this ragard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) In terms of International Nuclear Event Scale (INES) reporting system, nuclear events are rated ranging from 0 to 7. Events rated upto and including 3 are incidents and events rated as 4 and above are rated as accidents. No accidents (mishaps) have so far occurred in the Indian Nuclear Power Plants.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The auxiliary consumption of the nuclear plants in India is around 12% of the gross generation at normative levels of the operation. During temporary periods of shutdown of the units for maintenance, the units concerned draw their electricity requirements from the grid. The Nuclear Power Plants have supplied to the grids about 20600 MUs (million units) out of a total generation of 23700 MUs during the years 1991-92 to 1993-94.

(d) and (e) The performance of Tarapur Atomic Power Station 1 & 2 and Rajasthan Atomic Power Station-2 has been generally very good whereas the performance of Madras Atomic Power Station 1 & 2 has been affected by turbine blade and moderator inlet manifold failures. Narora Atomic Power Station-1 was affected by the fire incident caused by the failure of turbine blades. The Nuclear Power Corporation has taken necessary corrective steps to modify the turbine blades in all the Nuclear Power Plants. Efforts for strengthening of preventive and predictive maintenance, outage planning and equipment condition monitoring are on.

Nuclear-Waste Management in India

3867. DR. SHRIKANT RAMACHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that satisfaction is expressed at international forum about India's capacity in dealing with nuclear wastes;

(b) whether it is also a fact that any adverse comments or criticism has recently been made by any international forum or agency about India's nuclear-waste management programmes;

(c) whether India compares with other developed western countries in nuclear-waste management; if so, how; and

(d) whether the department of Atomic Energy is complascent about its waste-management programme or it is improving;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) India's Radioactive Waste Management practices are in conformity with international standards and are governed by the rules and regulations prescribed by the National Regulatory Authorities. India has gained a lot of experience in the field of Radioactive Waste Management in the past several years. Our expertise being used by IAEA in its various programmes related to waste management testifies to our capacities in this field.

(b) No, Sir. No adverse criticism or comments made recently by any international forum/agency has come to our knowledge.

(c) Yes, Sir. India compares well with other developed western countries in dealing with the Nuclear waste. The processes adopted in India are very similar to those adopted in the developed western countries.

(d) No, Sir. The Department attaches great importance to these areas and is continuously working to improve the process and the technology related to radioactive waste Management Programmes.

Food Irradiation Technology

3868. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that food irradiation technology is being opposed all over the world by strong consumer movements and if so, what are the reasons for its being promoted in our country, especially for food exports, which are bound to be boycotted abroad;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an article on the subject which was followed by controversy in the press as per the Economic Times dated the 14th and 24th February and 5th March, 1993; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) Government is aware of consumer resistance in some countries for the food irradiation technology. Such resistance is not world wide. Food Irradiation Technology is being promoted in this country because of its benefits such as preserving the food items and extending the storage life of perishable agricultural products without any detrimental health consequences. As many as twenty five countries including USA, UK, Canada, having high consumer awareness are practicing food irradiation for selected food items on a commercial basis. Based on our own investigation, we are satisfied that food irradiation is a safe process for preservation of perishable agricultural commodities without any detrimental health effects. International Trade in irradiated food items is rapidly picking up and it is expected that with the harmonization of regulations, and establishment of modalities for exporting irradiated food the volume of trade will increase significantly.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government are convinced about the safety and beneficial effects of food irradiation technology. A few items have already been cleared by the Government for irradiation. For the preservation of perishable agricultural commodities like potato, onions and spices this technology is proposed to be introduced on commercial scale after initial technology demonstration.

Voluntary Retirement Scheme in HFC, Namrup

3869. SHRI BHADRESWAR GOHAIN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 455 given in the Rajya Sabha on 24th February, 1994 and state:

(a) the reasons to ask the employees of Namrup units I & II of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation to opt for voluntary retirement scheme; and

(b) whether Government will issue a direction to these units not to encourage voluntary retirement scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS), which aims at the reduction of surplus manpower, has been in operation in all the Units of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation (HFC), including its Namrup Units I & II, since 1989-90.

(b) No, Sir.

Revision of formulation prices

3870. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that drug companies are statutorily required to get the formulation prices revised after the bulk drug is procured at lower or higher prices;

(b) if so, whether M/s. Hoechst, M/s. Sandoz, in respect of Tetracycline and M/s. Pifizer in respect of oxytetracycline did not get the formulation prices reduced after procuring these bulk drugs at prices lower than prices allowed in the formulations during the last three years;

(c) what is the quantity procured by each company and the price thereof during the last three years, yearwise, and what was the price allowed to them in the formulations ; and

(d) whether it is a fact that Government companies have been protected by not monitoring the imports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) In accordance with the provisions of DPCO'87, the formulators are required to apply for price revision as and when the price of the price controlled bulk drugs or norms for other cost inputs are revised by the Government. The actual procurement price of bulk drug may however, vary depending on its availability, source and quantum of procurement etc. However, price controlled bulk drug cannot be sold at a price higher than the price fixed by the Government. If sharp variation is noticed necessary steps are taken to revise the price of such price controlled bulk drugs.

(c) Details of procurement by the companies are not monitored. Prices of Tetracycline and Oxytetracycline considered in working out the formulation prices from time to time are as under:

Name of the bulk Drug.	Price/Kg. (Rs.)	Date
(1)	(2)	(3)
TETRACYCLINE :		
(i)	1022.00	9-8-1990
(ii)	1084.00	26-2-1991
(iii)	1095.00	25-9-1991
(iv)	1212.00	21-1-1992
(v)	1294.00	16-6-1992